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E.O. 12958: DECL: 04/24/2016  
TAGS: [PGOV](#) [PTER](#) [PHUM](#) [AG](#)  
SUBJECT: GOA OUTLINES STEPS TAKEN TO IMPLEMENT THE CHARTER  
FOR PEACE AND NATIONAL RECONCILIATION

REF: ALGIERS 390

Classified By: Ambassador Richard W. Erdman: Reasons 1/5 (b),(d)

1. (U) The Government of Algeria released April 23 a  
communique outlining the steps taken by the GOA in  
implementing the Charter for Peace and National  
Reconciliation. Among the more important points of the  
communique were:

-- Nearly 2200 detainees have been freed, which is almost the  
total number of concerned persons.

-- The communique reaffirms that the "police services" are  
following up the releases with vigilance and that security  
services are relentlessly continuing their efforts to destroy  
the remaining small groups who have decided to "turn their  
back to the out-stretched hand of the Algerian people."

-- Persons arrested after February 27 for terrorism-related  
offenses will be prosecuted to the full extent of the law.

-- The total list of persons who disappeared during the  
terrorism of the 1990s stands at 7,100 cases.

-- More than 7,000 persons claiming to be relatives of the  
disappeared have filed compensation claims. (The communique  
pointedly welcomed this high number of citizens filing for  
claims as a telling response to activist groups who claim the  
families of disappeared would not participate in the  
compensation program).

-- By the GOA's count, close to 17,000 terrorists were killed  
in the battle waged against terrorism in Algeria.

-- More than 7,000 persons claiming to be relatives of slain  
terrorists have identified themselves to the state under  
provisions of the Charter that prohibit discrimination  
against the families of former terrorists.

-- The Commission overseeing the implementation of the  
Charter has instructed the governors of Algerian provinces to  
provide biweekly updates on new claims across all possible  
categories.

-- Despite rumors and allegations to the contrary, the  
communique confirms that prisoners liberated under provisions  
of the Charter are ineligible for financial assistance or  
pensions from the state.

-- The communique reaffirms President Bouteflika's  
determination to enforce fully the provisions of the Charter  
in letter and spirit.

COMMENT  
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12. (C) This communique provides a benchmark for the implementation of the Charter on National Peace and Reconciliation. It also provides figures we have not seen before in open documents, most notably, the official number of terrorists killed (around 17,000). This figure should be viewed against official estimates of 27-28,000 armed terrorists at the height of the terrorist troubles. President Bouteflika's low-key affirmation that the Charter would be implemented in letter and spirit is another sign of GOA determination to ensure that individuals released under the Charter do not violate its terms by engaging in political activity. In this regard, it is notable that since the initial releases, when there was a flurry of statements by released former leaders of the banned FLS, among others, there have been no further media reports of political statements being made. While we suspect these individuals have not abandoned their radical agenda or plans, their new-found public silence is striking, and probably due to a combination of: 1) quiet reminders from the security forces that the political ban will be enforced and 2) the press' cautiousness, no doubt with some official encouragement, about giving Islamic radicals a platform for promoting their agenda.

ERDMAN